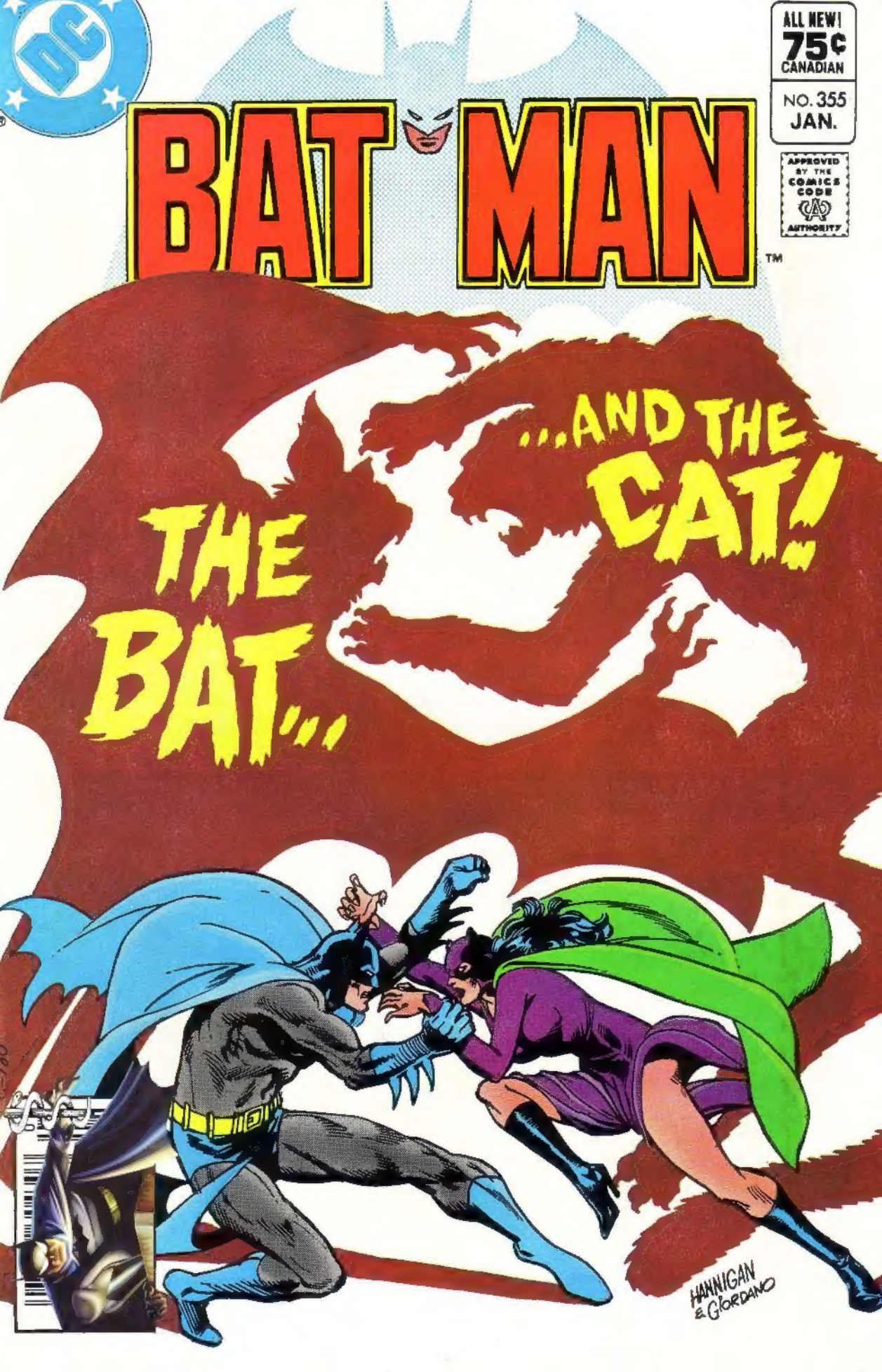
ALL NEW!
75¢
CANADIAN
NO. 355
JAN.
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
BAT MAN
TM
THE BAT...
...AND THE CAT!
HANNIGAN & GIORDANO

THERE ARE OTHER CREATURES WHO STALK THE GOTHAM NIGHT THAN THE DREADED..
BAT MAN
ONE SUCH CREATURE IS THE WOMAN WHO WAS BORN SELINA KYLE.
NEVER SCRATCH A CAT
DAMN HER.
GERRY CONWAY WRITER
DON NEWTON * ALFREDO ALCALA ARTISTS
BEN ODA LETTERER
ADRIENNE COLORIST
LEN WEIN EDITOR

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Phil & Doc Scan

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GRROWWWMM?
MY SENTIMENTS EXACTLY, DIABLO.

DOES SHE TAKE ME FOR A FOOL?
I GAVE HER FAIR WARNING TO LEAVE MY MAN ALONE, BUT DID SHE LISTEN?

RRIPPPP
SHE DID NOT!
HISSSSSSSSS

THAT, MS. VALE, WAS A VERY SERIOUS MISTAKE.
ONE YOU SOON WILL COME TO REGRET.
2

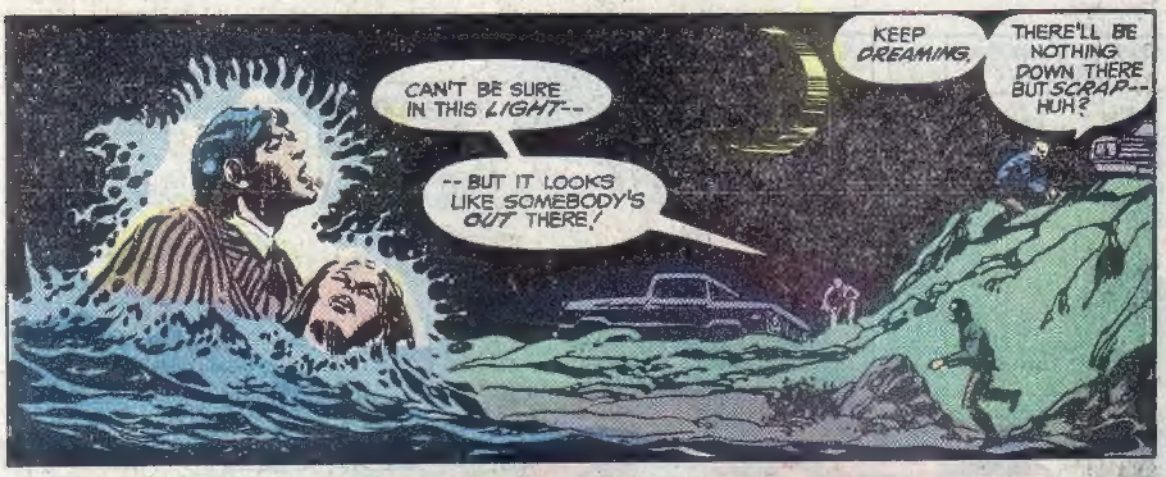
I'VE FINALLY FIGURED OUT JUST WHAT IT IS I LIKE ABOUT YOU, BRUCE.
YOU MAKE ME LAUGH.
THIS MORNING AT BREAKFAST, I FELT AS IF MY WHOLE WORLD WERE COLLAPSING*--
* SEE LAST MONTH'S DETECTIVE FOR DETAILS. --Len.
--BUT AFTER A DAY WITH YOU LARKING AROUND NEW ENGLAND, I FEEL SIXTEEN AGAIN.
WHAT'S YOUR SECRET, MR. WAYNE?
I'M RICH.
RICH PEOPLE DON'T TAKE ANYTHING SERIOUSLY.
HA.
AFTER TODAY, SELINA KYLE SEEMS LIKE A BAD DREAM.
I STILL FEEL SORRY FOR HER, OF COURSE, BUT AS YOU SAID THIS MORNING--
-- SHE HAS TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR HER OWN LIFE.
THAT'S WHAT I SAID... BUT IS THAT REALLY WHAT I FEEL?
I LOVED SELINA... AND HER LEAVING HURT ME DEEPLY.
BUT SHE DID LEAVE--BY HER OWN CHOICE-- AND NOW VICKI AND I HAVE--
EH?
VVVRRROOOMM
"SELINA!"
3

IT LUNGES FROM THE NIGHT LIKE SOME GREAT BRIGHT-EYED PANTHER, ITS ODDLY OLD-FASHIONED DESIGN HIDING A HIGH-POWERED ENGINE THAT SNARLS WITH ALMOST ANIMALISTIC HUNGER...
BRUCE, THAT CAR--
RRRROAARR
IT'S MEA, VICKI!
HANG ON WHILE I TRY TO--
A WET ROAD, A PATCH OF OIL ON THE TARRED SURFACE:
SCREEEEECH
THE CAR SKIDS, WHEEL LOOSE AND OUT OF CONTROL--
KRASSH!
4

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.

SPWHOOM!
SINKING FAST--SHORE MUST DROP OFF HERE--LIKE A CLIFF!
CRASH KNOCKED VICKI OUT! HAVE TO GET HER TO THE SURFACE!
DAMN HER--
DAMN CATWOMAN!
RROWWRRR
BRUCE...
OH, PLEASE, NO!
FORGIVE ME...
MMMROWWRRR
5

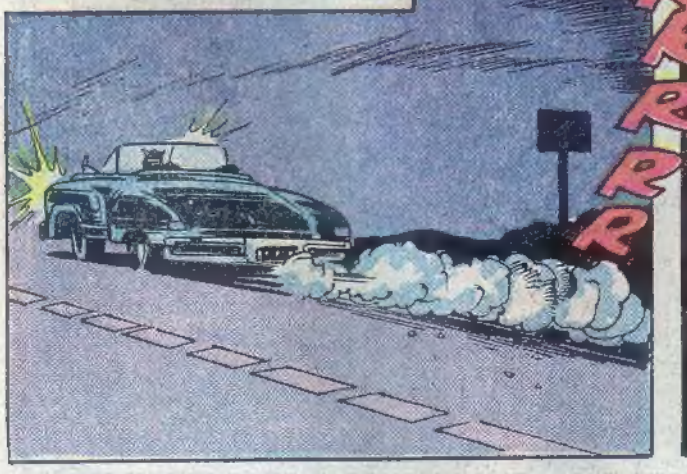
DOOR JAMMED--!
HAVE TO PULL VICKI THROUGH THE WINDOW!
CAN'T HOLD MY BREATH MUCH LONGER--HARD TO FOCUS--!
CATWOMAN!
NOT TAKING ANY CHANCES, ARE YOU?
YOU WANT TO MAKE SURE SHE'S FINISHED!
HOW COULD I EVER HAVE THOUGHT I LOVED YOU?
WHAT--?


CAN'T BE SURE IN THIS LIGHT--
-- BUT IT LOOKS LIKE SOMEBODY'S OUT THERE!
KEEP DREAMING.
THERE'LL BE NOTHING DOWN THERE BUT SCRAP-- HUH?

JEEPERS!
OVER HERE, MISTER!

WE SAW YOU CRASH-- ED THOUGHT NOBODY COULD MAKE IT THROUGH A WRECK LIKE THAT, BUT ME--
HEY, DON'T SAY THERE'S SOMEBODY ELSE STILL DOWN THERE--?
SHUT UP AND GET THIS KID TO THE TRUCK.
SHE LOOKS LOUSY--!

RRRR RRRRR



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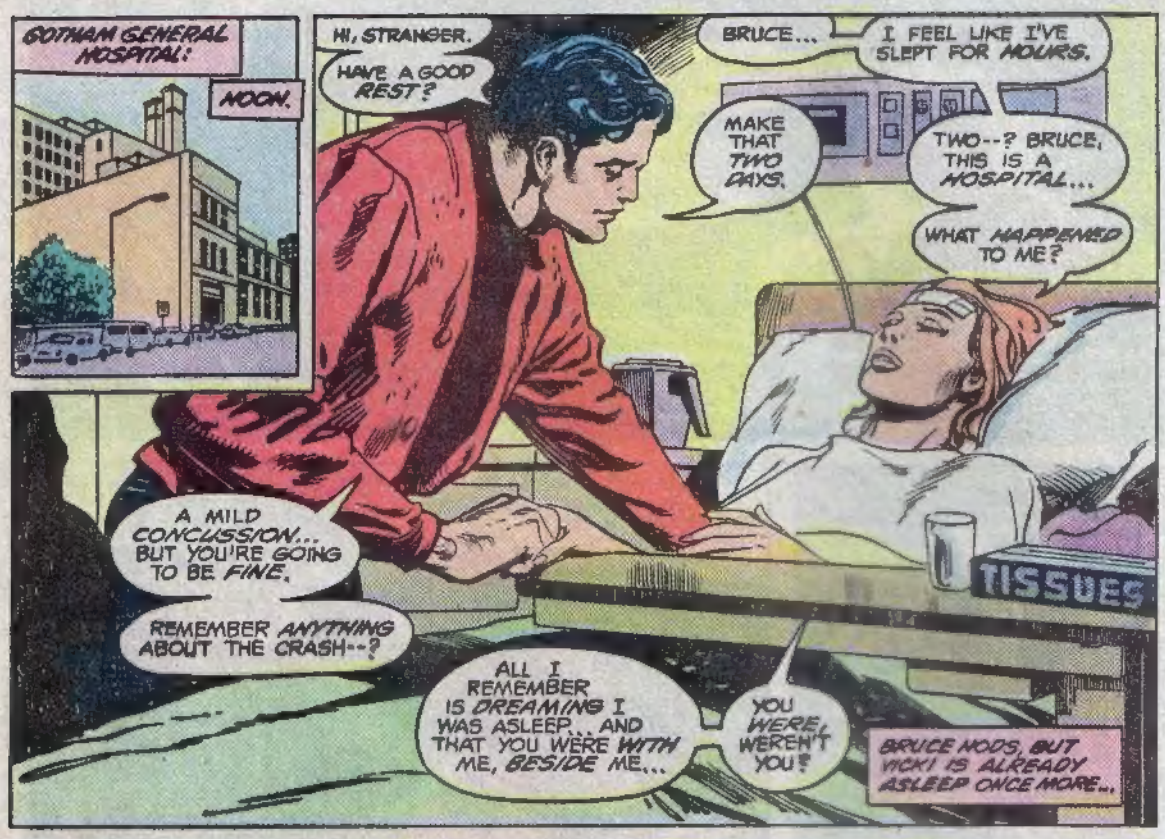
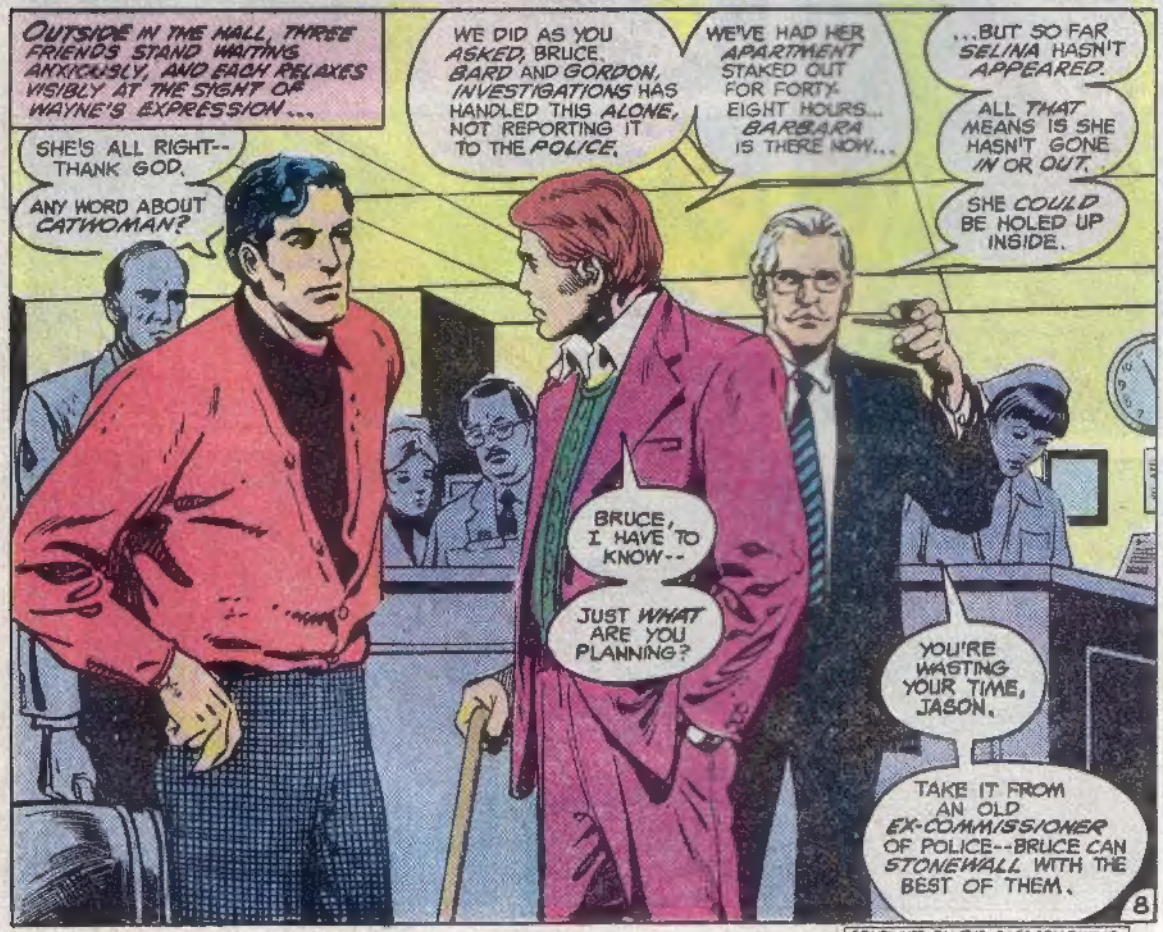
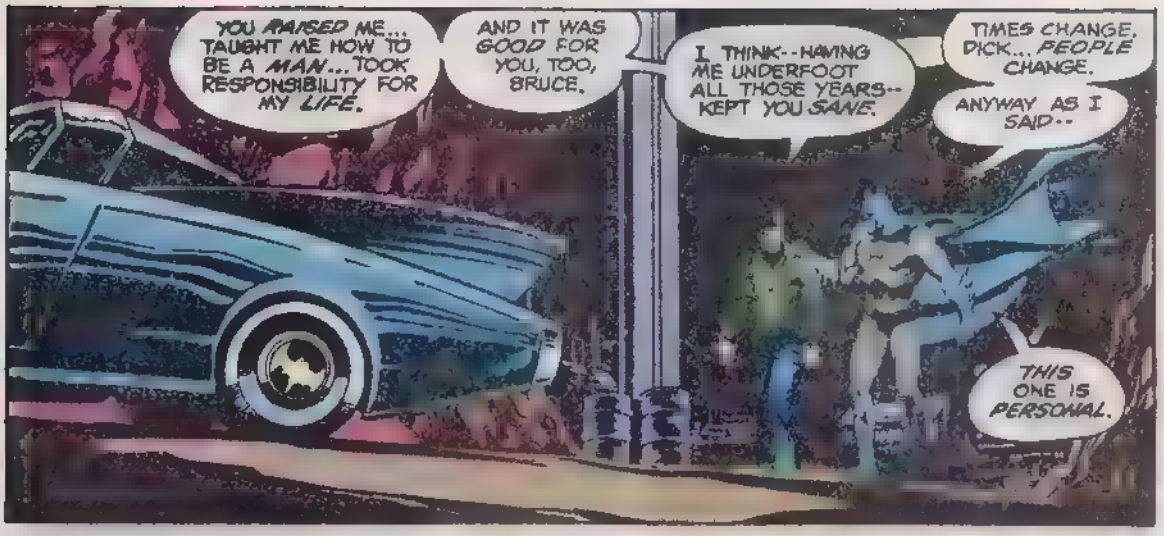

GOTHAM GENERAL HOSPITAL:
NOON.
HI, STRANGER.
HAVE A GOOD REST?
BRUCE...
I FEEL LIKE I'VE SLEPT FOR HOURS.
MAKE THAT TWO DAYS.
TWO--? BRUCE, THIS IS A HOSPITAL...
WHAT HAPPENED TO ME?
A MILD CONCUSSION... BUT YOU'RE GOING TO BE FINE.
REMEMBER ANYTHING ABOUT THE CRASH--?
ALL I REMEMBER IS DREAMING I WAS ASLEEP... AND THAT YOU WERE WITH ME, BESIDE ME...
YOU WERE, WEREN'T YOU?
TISSUES
BRUCE NODS, BUT VICKI IS ALREADY ASLEEP ONCE MORE...

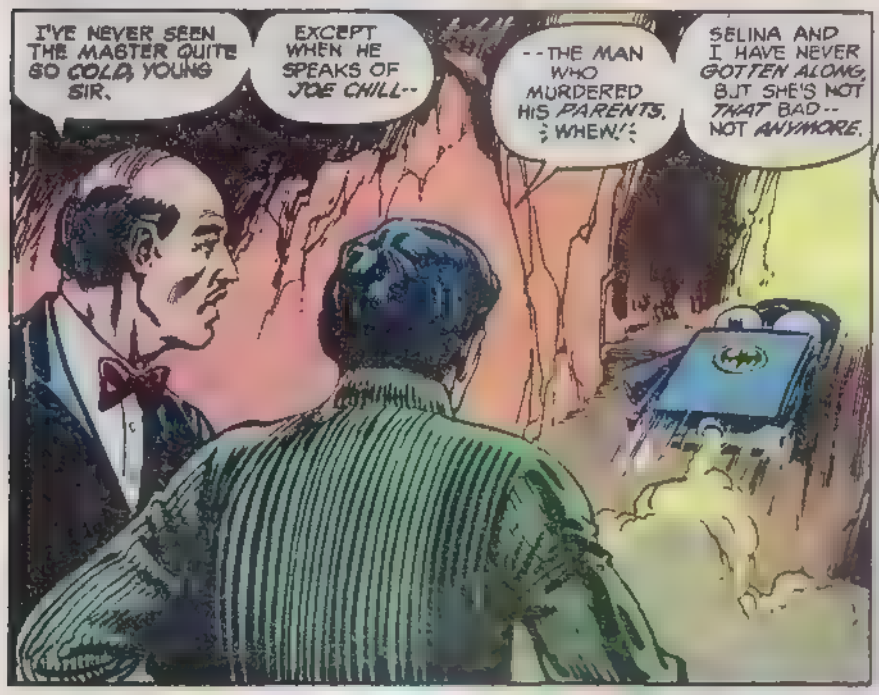

OUTSIDE IN THE HALL, THREE FRIENDS STAND WAITING ANXIOUSLY, AND EACH RELAXES VISIBLY AT THE SIGHT OF WAYNE'S EXPRESSION...
SHE'S ALL RIGHT--THANK GOD.
ANY WORD ABOUT CATWOMAN?
WE DID AS YOU ASKED, BRUCE. BARD AND GORDON INVESTIGATIONS HAS HANDLED THIS ALONE, NOT REPORTING IT TO THE POLICE.
WE'VE HAD HER APARTMENT STAKED OUT FOR FORTY-EIGHT HOURS... BARBARA IS THERE NOW...
...BUT SO FAR SELINA HASN'T APPEARED.
ALL THAT MEANS IS SHE HASN'T GONE IN OR OUT.
SHE COULD BE HOLED UP INSIDE.
BRUCE, I HAVE TO KNOW--
JUST WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING?
YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME, JASON.
TAKE IT FROM AN OLD EX-COMMISSIONER OF POLICE--BRUCE CAN STONEWALL WITH THE BEST OF THEM.
8

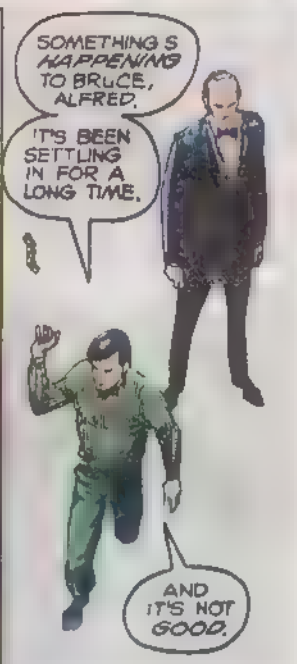
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

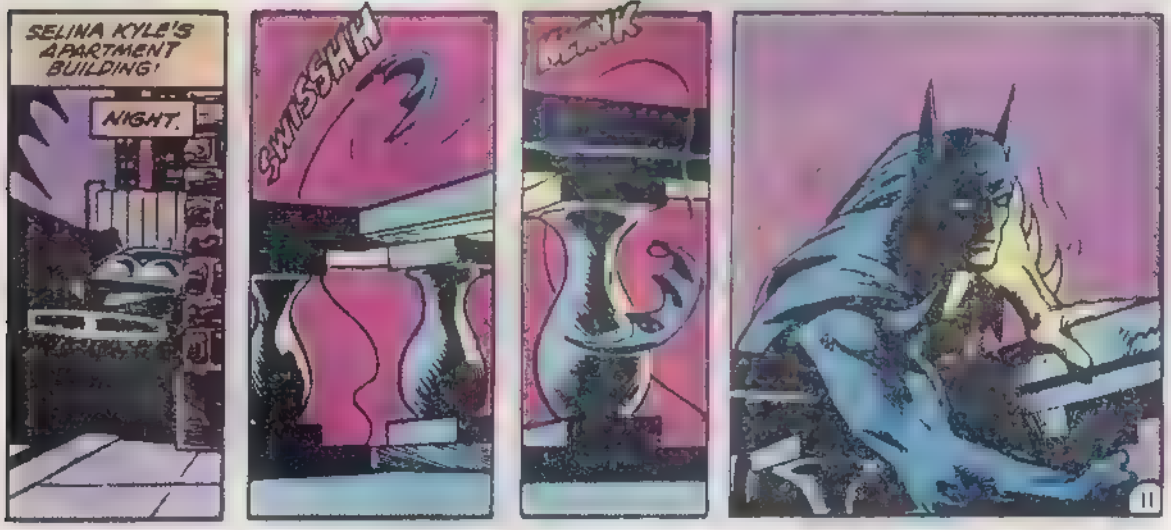
BRUCE, TAKE SOME ADVICE-- LEAVE THIS TO THE PROFESSIONALS.
I'VE BEEN A DETECTIVE FOR YEARS, SINCE 'NAM, AND I KNOW--
ANY OTHER NEWS, JASON?
RIGHT.
WANT SOME GOOD NEWS FOR A CHANGE?
Gazette
BOSS THORNE-- INDICTED FOR POLICE COMMISSIONER PAULING'S MURDER.*
GENTLEMEN, I FEEL BETTER ALREADY.
*LAST ISSUE --LEN.
THAT'S NOT ALL, BRUCE.
I GOT A CALL THIS MORNING--
HIS HONOR, THE MAYOR, WANTS TO SEE ME THIS AFTERNOON.
WELL, WELL-- I CAN'T IMAGINE WHY!
WAYNE MANSION:
DUSK.
IN THE BATCAVE...
I WISH YOU'D RECONSIDER, SIR. YOU'RE STILL RECOVERING FROM YOUR GUNSHOT WOUNDS*..
AND YOU HAVEN'T HAD A REAL NIGHT'S SLEEP IN TWO DAYS.
AT LEAST LET ME COME WITH YOU, BRUCE.!
*RECEIVED LAST ISSUE. --Len.

SORRY, DICK, BUT THIS IS *PERSONAL*.
BESIDES, YOU'VE BEEN HELPING ME TOO *MUCH* LATELY-- YOU EVEN TOOK MY PLACE *TWICE* IN THE PAST FEW WEEKS*--
--AND THAT CAN'T BE DOING YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE *TITANS* ANY GOOD.
BRUCE, MY FIRST DUTY AS *ROBIN* IS TO *YOU*--
WRONG.
*SEE OUR PAST TWO ISSUES --*len*.
YOUR *FIRST* DUTY IS TO *YOURSELF*.
BE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOURSELF, DICK--
--AND ALL THE REST WILL FOLLOW.
THAT'S SOMETHING *CATWOMAN* MUST COME TO UNDERSTAND.
SHE'S TRIED TO MAKE *VICKI* AND ME RESPONSIBLE FOR *HER* HAPPINESS.
LIFE DOESN'T *WORK* THAT WAY.
C'MON, BRUCE, YOU *KNOW* BETTER.
WE *ARE* RESPONSIBLE FOR EACH OTHER.
THAT'S PART OF BEING *HUMAN*... ISN'T IT?

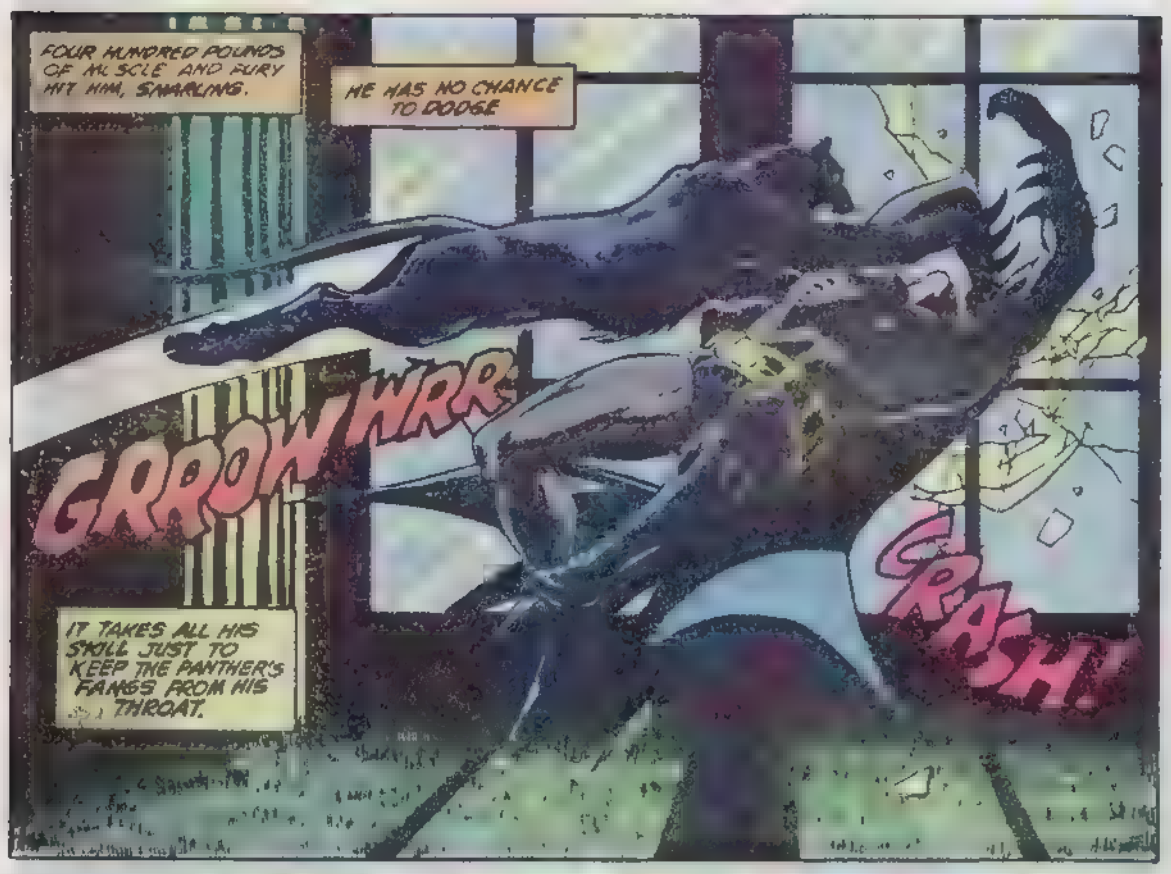

YOU RAISED ME... TAUGHT ME HOW TO BE A MAN... TOOK RESPONSIBILITY FOR MY LIFE.
AND IT WAS GOOD FOR YOU, TOO, BRUCE.
I THINK--HAVING ME UNDERFOOT ALL THOSE YEARS-- KEPT YOU SANE.
TIMES CHANGE, DICK... PEOPLE CHANGE.
ANYWAY AS I SAID--
THIS ONE IS PERSONAL.


I'VE NEVER SEEN THE MASTER QUITE SO COLD, YOUNG SIR.
EXCEPT WHEN HE SPEAKS OF JOE CHILL--
--THE MAN WHO MURDERED HIS PARENTS. WHEW!
SELINA AND I HAVE NEVER GOTTEN ALONG, BUT SHE'S NOT THAT BAD-- NOT ANYMORE.

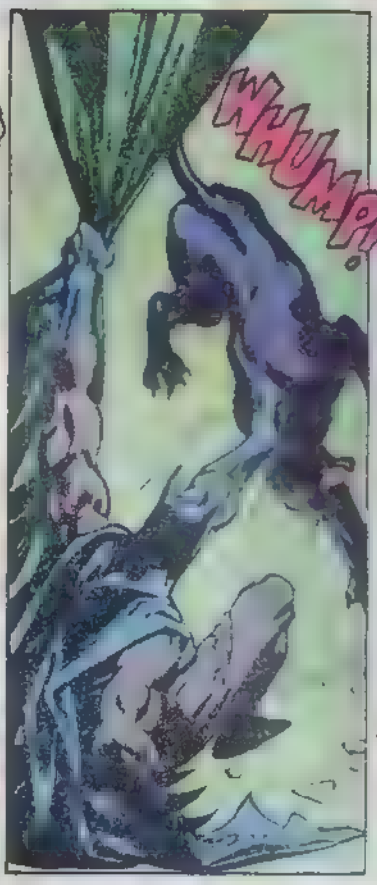

SOMETHING'S HAPPENING TO BRUCE, ALFRED.
IT'S BEEN SETTLING IN FOR A LONG TIME.
AND IT'S NOT GOOD.

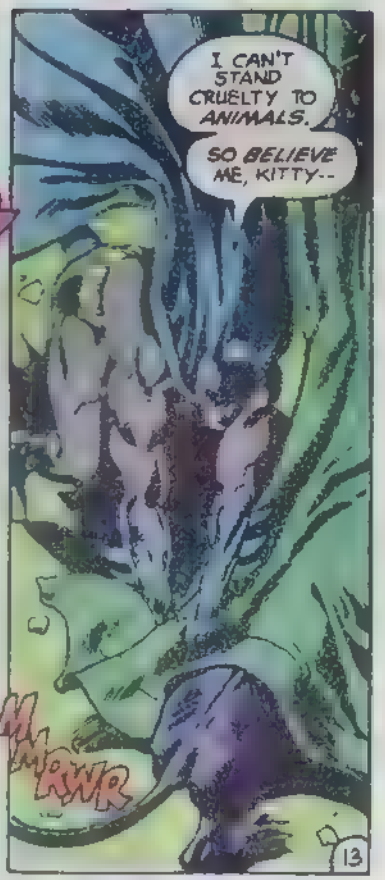

SELINA KYLE'S APARTMENT BUILDING!
NIGHT.
SMASSH!
KLUNK

SILENCE.
IN THE APARTMENT, A FAINT RUSTLE... A SHADOW PACING.
SHIK
SELINA?
GROWWR
HSSSSS
SELINA'S PANTHER!
ITS EYES-- WILD, VICIOUS!
GOING TO LEAP--
12

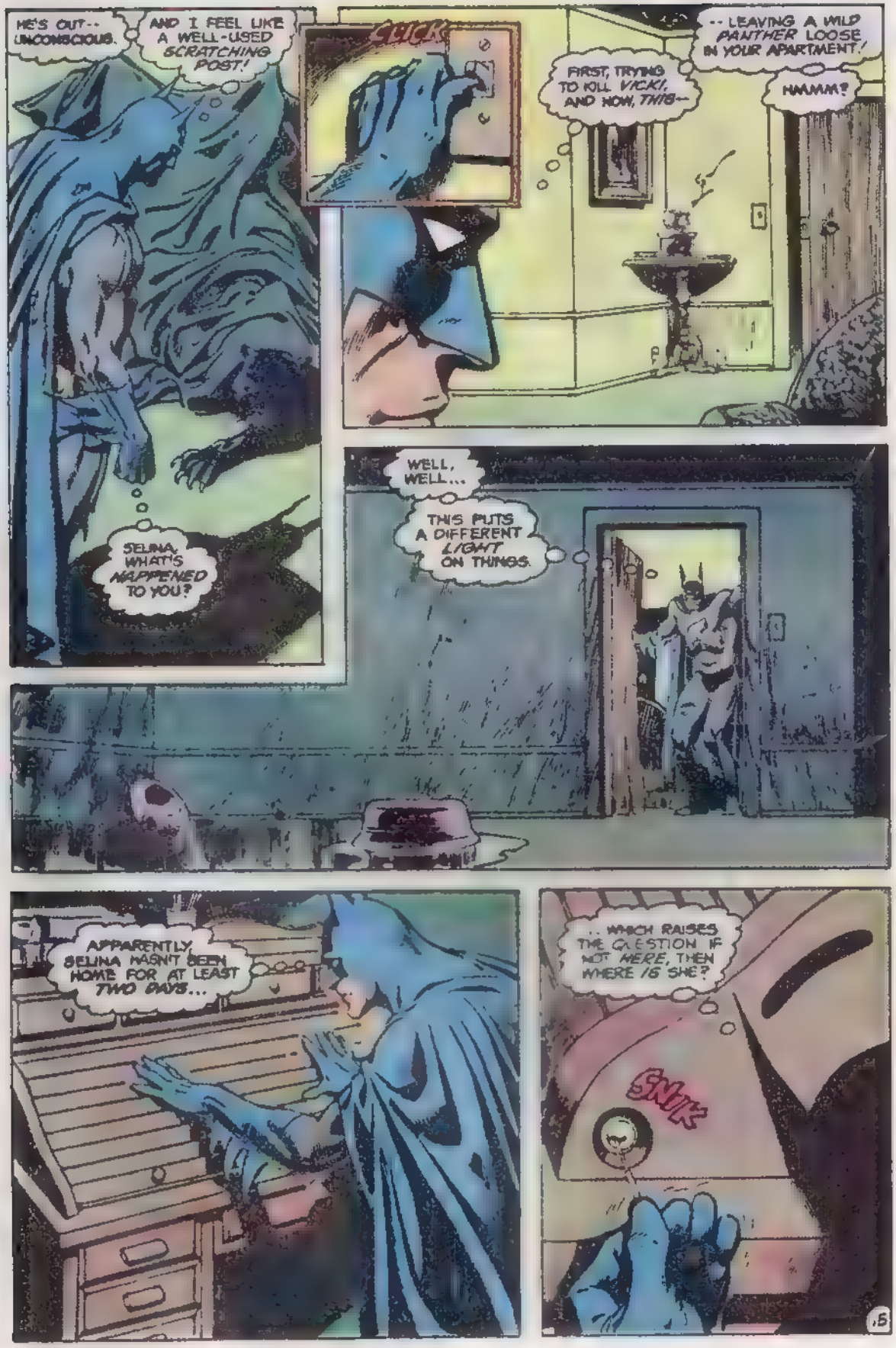

FOUR HUNDRED POUNDS OF MUSCLE AND FURY HIT HIM, SNARLING.
HE HAS NO CHANCE TO DODGE
GRROW
WRR
CRASH!
IT TAKES ALL HIS SKILL JUST TO KEEP THE PANTHER'S FANGS FROM HIS THROAT.

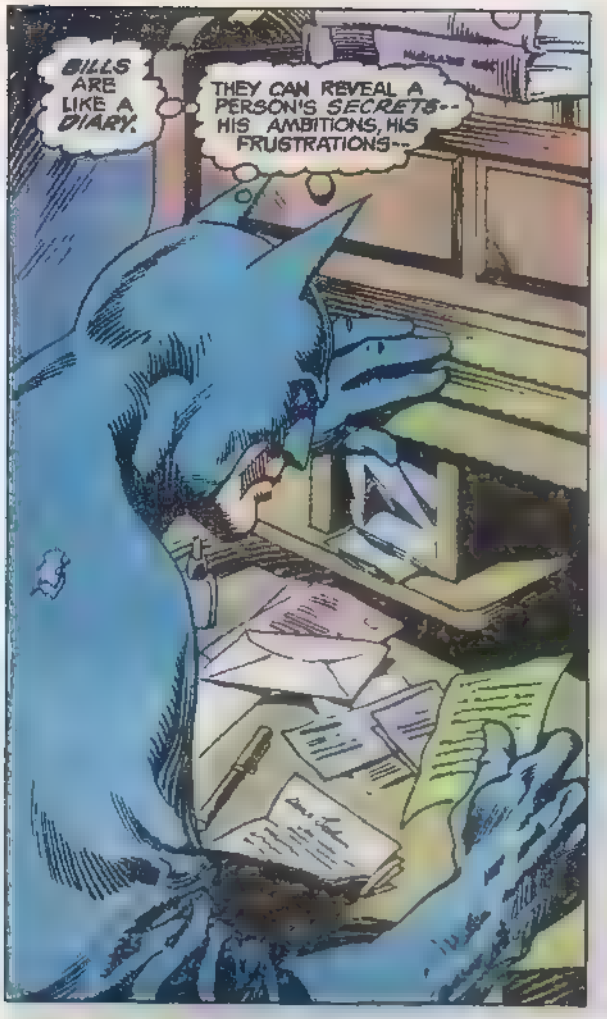
GRRAARR
THAT CURTAIN BEHIND ME--!

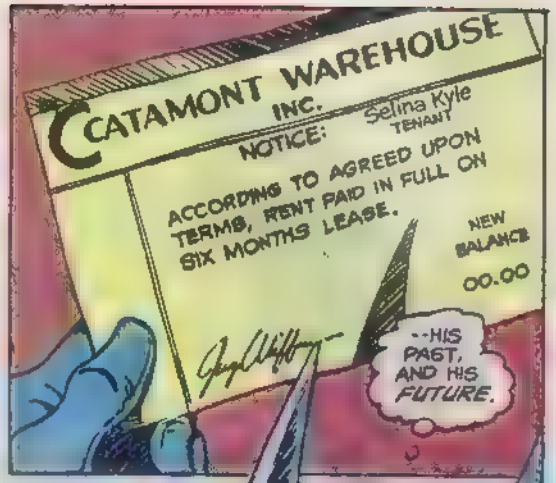

WHUMP!

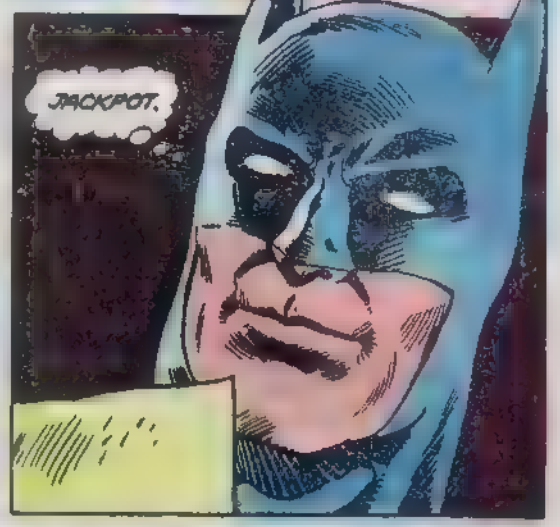

I CAN'T STAND CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.
SO BELIEVE ME, KITTY--
MMMRWR

AWWWRRR
WHAM!
-- THIS HURTS ME MORE THAN IT DOES YOU!


HE'S OUT-- UNCONSCIOUS.
AND I FEEL LIKE A WELL-USED SCRATCHING POST!
SELINA, WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU?
CLICK
FIRST, TRYING TO KILL VICKI, AND NOW, THIS--
-- LEAVING A WILD PANTHER LOOSE IN YOUR APARTMENT.
HMMM?
WELL, WELL...
THIS PUTS A DIFFERENT LIGHT ON THINGS.
APPARENTLY, SELINA HASN'T BEEN HOME FOR AT LEAST TWO DAYS...
.. WHICH RAISES THE QUESTION IF NOT HERE, THEN WHERE IS SHE?
SNIK
15


BILLS ARE LIKE A DIARY.
THEY CAN REVEAL A PERSON'S SECRETS-- HIS AMBITIONS, HIS FRUSTRATIONS--

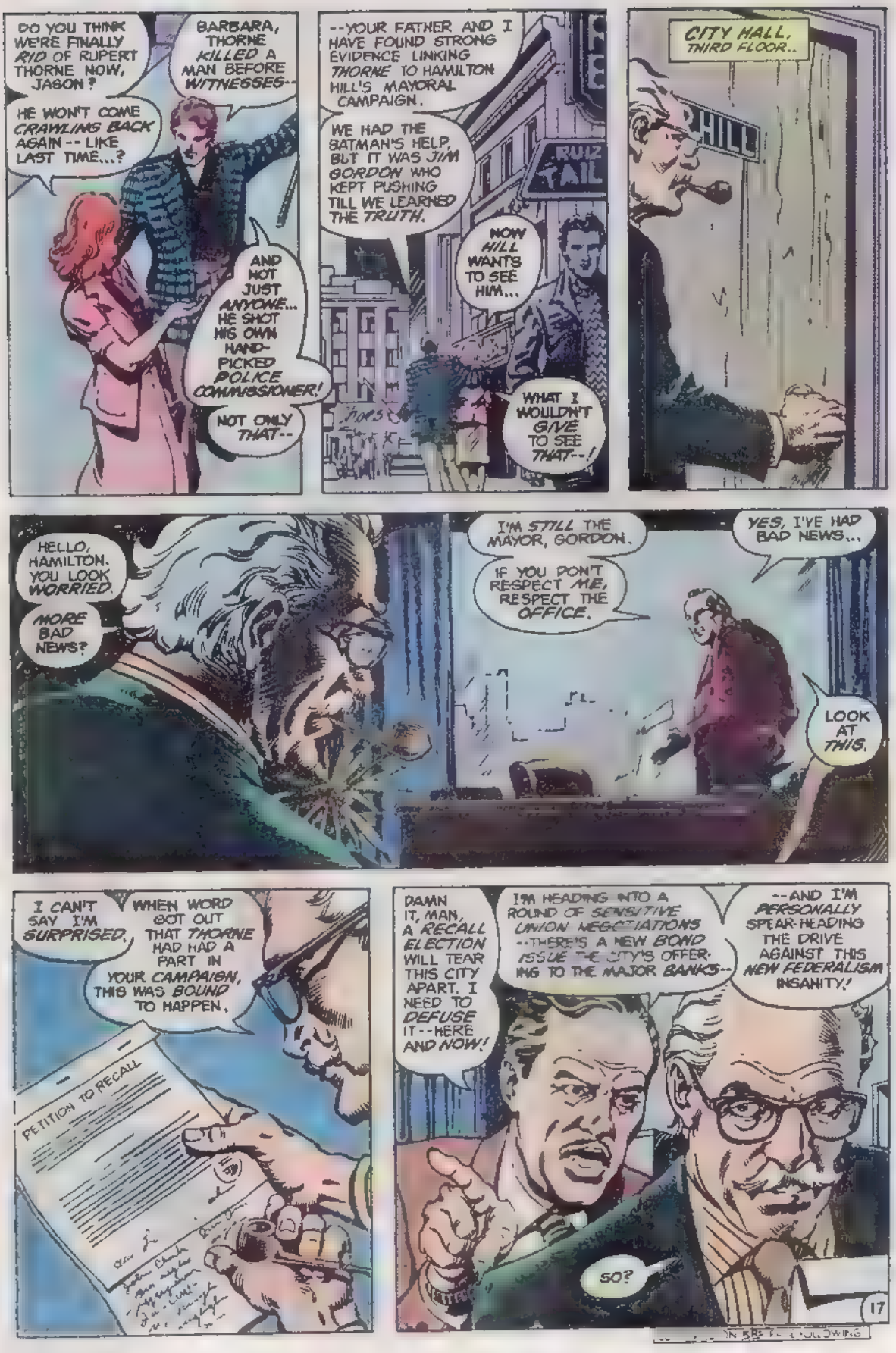

CATAMONT WAREHOUSE INC.
NOTICE: Selina Kyle TENANT
ACCORDING TO AGREED UPON TERMS, RENT PAID IN FULL ON SIX MONTHS LEASE.
NEW BALANCE 00.00
--HIS PAST, AND HIS FUTURE.

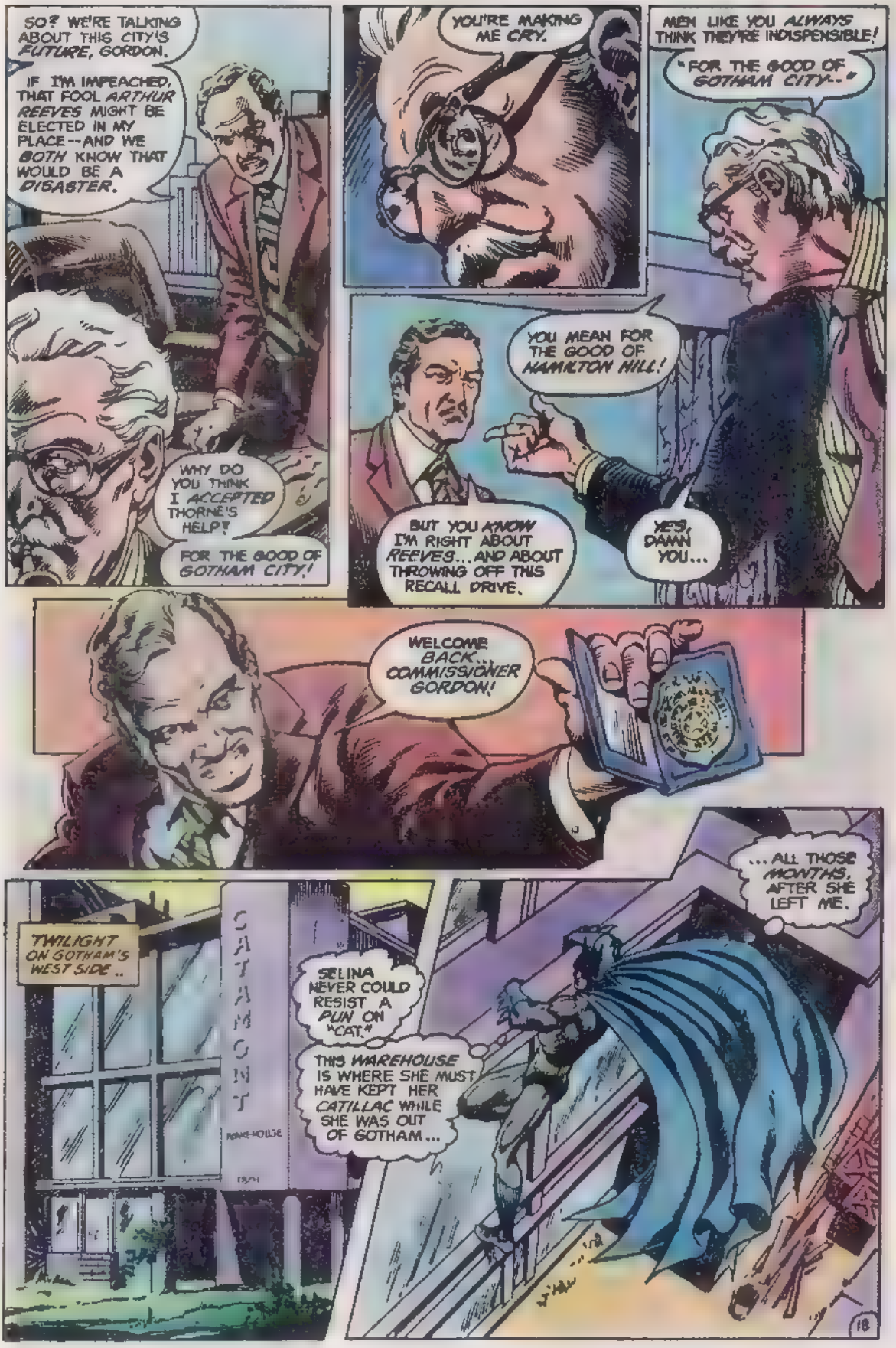

JACKPOT.

GOTHAM CITY HALL...
I'M GOING TO ENJOY THIS.

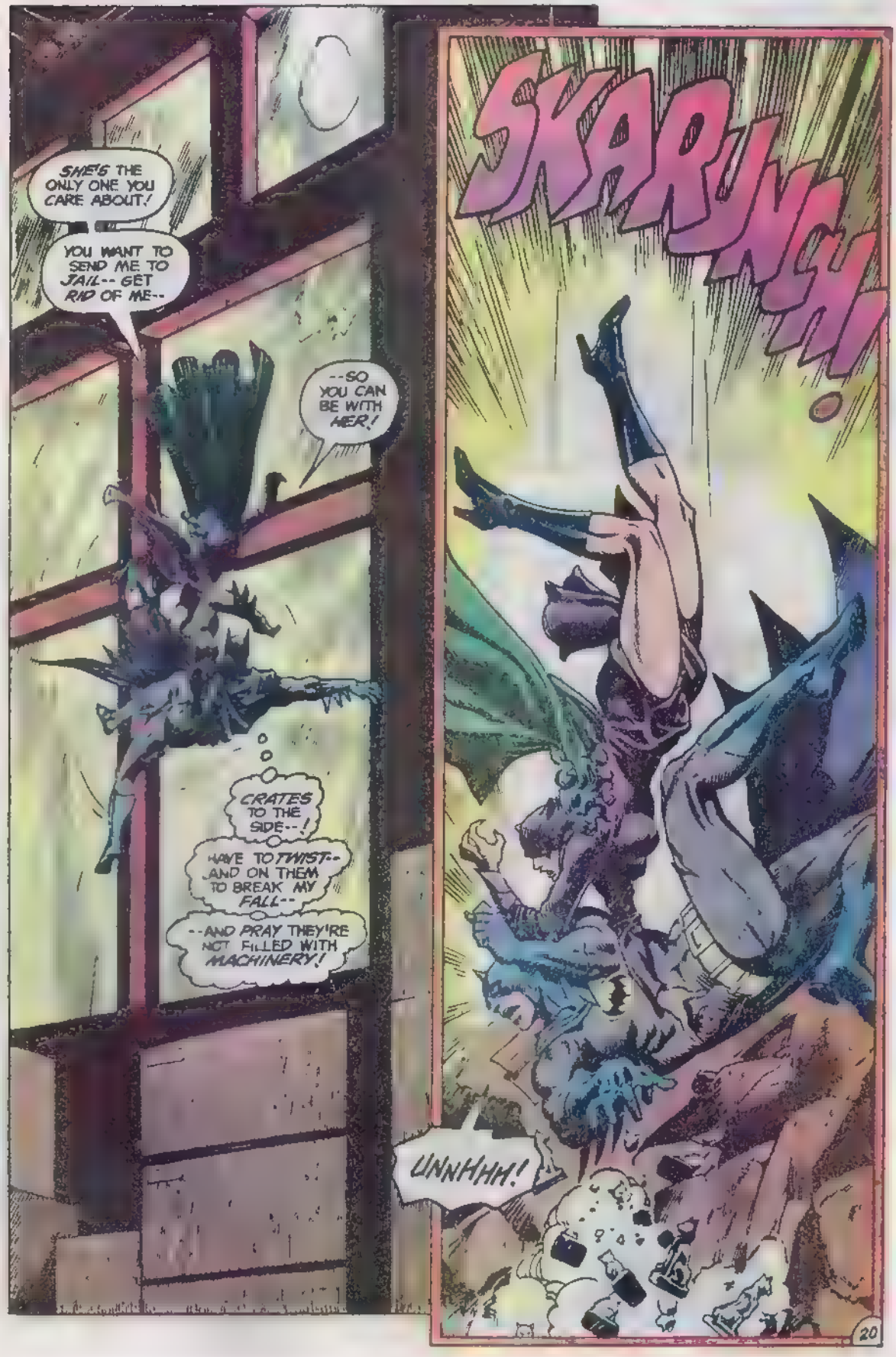
I HAVEN'T HAD A GOOD PIPE IN SIX MONTHS, SINCE HILL UP THERE FIRED ME...
THEY ALL TASTED BITTER, SOMEHOW.
BUT I'LL TELL YOU SOMETHING, BARBARA... JASON...
...THIS ONE TASTES SWEET.

DAD'S FINALLY HIMSELF AGAIN, JASON.
THANK YOU.
JIM GORDON'S A TOUGH OLD COP, BARBARA.
ALL HE NEEDED WAS A NUDGE--
--AND A CAUSE.


DO YOU THINK WE'RE FINALLY RID OF RUPERT THORNE NOW, JASON?
BARBARA, THORNE KILLED A MAN BEFORE WITNESSES--
HE WON'T COME CRAWLING BACK AGAIN -- LIKE LAST TIME...?
AND NOT JUST ANYONE... HE SHOT HIS OWN HAND-PICKED POLICE COMMISSIONER!
NOT ONLY THAT--
--YOUR FATHER AND I HAVE FOUND STRONG EVIDENCE LINKING THORNE TO HAMILTON HILL'S MAYORAL CAMPAIGN.
WE HAD THE BATMAN'S HELP, BUT IT WAS JIM GORDON WHO KEPT PUSHING TILL WE LEARNED THE TRUTH.
NOW HILL WANTS TO SEE HIM...
WHAT I WOULDN'T GIVE TO SEE THAT--!
CITY HALL, THIRD FLOOR..
HILL
HELLO, HAMILTON. YOU LOOK WORRIED.
MORE BAD NEWS?
I'M STILL THE MAYOR, GORDON.
IF YOU DON'T RESPECT ME, RESPECT THE OFFICE.
YES, I'VE HAD BAD NEWS...
LOOK AT THIS.
I CAN'T SAY I'M SURPRISED.
WHEN WORD GOT OUT THAT THORNE HAD HAD A PART IN YOUR CAMPAIGN, THIS WAS BOUND TO HAPPEN.
PETITION TO RECALL
DAMN IT, MAN, A RECALL ELECTION WILL TEAR THIS CITY APART. I NEED TO DEFUSE IT--HERE AND NOW!
I'M HEADING INTO A ROUND OF SENSITIVE UNION NEGOTIATIONS --THERE'S A NEW BOND ISSUE THE CITY'S OFFERING TO THE MAJOR BANKS--
--AND I'M PERSONALLY SPEAR-HEADING THE DRIVE AGAINST THIS NEW FEDERALISM INSANITY!
SO?
17

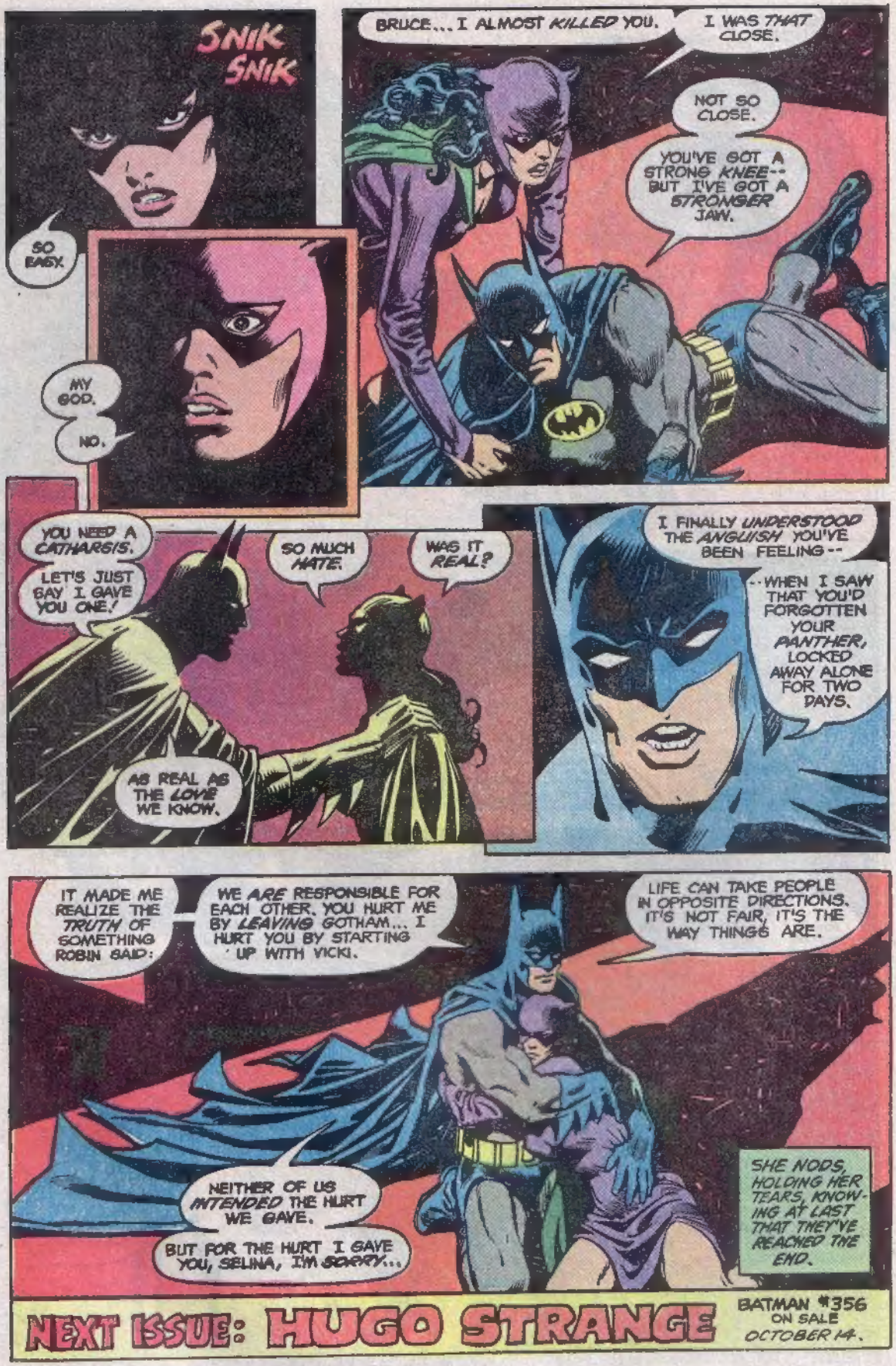

SO? WE'RE TALKING ABOUT THIS CITY'S *FUTURE*, GORDON.
IF I'M IMPEACHED, THAT FOOL *ARTHUR REEVES* MIGHT BE ELECTED IN MY PLACE--AND WE *BOTH* KNOW THAT WOULD BE A *DISASTER*.
WHY DO YOU THINK I *ACCEPTED* THORNE'S HELP?
FOR THE GOOD OF *GOTHAM CITY!*
YOU'RE MAKING ME CRY.
MEN LIKE YOU *ALWAYS* THINK THEY'RE INDISPENSIBLE!
"FOR THE GOOD OF *GOTHAM CITY--*"
YOU MEAN FOR THE GOOD OF *HAMILTON HILL!*
BUT YOU *KNOW* I'M RIGHT ABOUT *REEVES*...AND ABOUT THROWING OFF THIS RECALL DRIVE.
YES, DAMN YOU...
WELCOME BACK... COMMISSIONER GORDON!
TWILIGHT ON GOTHAM'S WEST SIDE..
CATAMONT
SELINA NEVER COULD RESIST A *PUN* ON "CAT."
THIS *WAREHOUSE* IS WHERE SHE MUST HAVE KEPT HER *CATILLAC* WHILE SHE WAS OUT OF GOTHAM...
...ALL THOSE *MONTHS*, AFTER SHE LEFT ME.
18

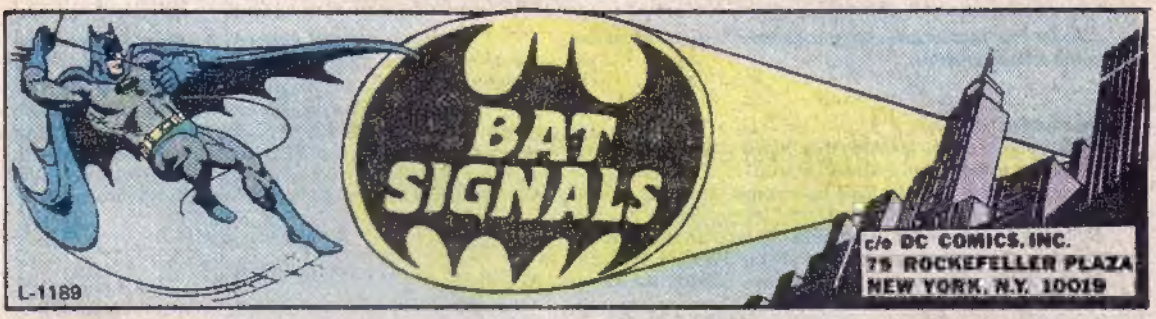
SAFE BET I'LL FIND HER HERE...
SKRITCH
...SHE HAS NOWHERE ELSE TO GO
AND WHOSE FAULT IS THAT?
HERS-- OR MINE?
HISSS
WHAM!
SELINA!


SHE'S THE ONLY ONE YOU CARE ABOUT!
YOU WANT TO SEND ME TO JAIL-- GET RID OF ME--
--SO YOU CAN BE WITH HER!
CRATES TO THE SIDE--!
HAVE TO TWIST-- AND ON THEM TO BREAK MY FALL--
--AND PRAY THEY'RE NOT FILLED WITH MACHINERY!
SKRUNCH!
UNNHHH!
20

IS THIS WHAT YOU WANT, CATWOMAN?
TO KILL ME, THE WAY YOU TRIED TO KILL VICKI VALE?
IF I WANTED HER DEAD, SHE'D BE IN A COFFIN!
I LOVED YOU--
BUT WHEN I NEEDED YOU, YOU'D FOUND SOMEONE ELSE!
SO NOW YOU'RE GOING TO KILL ME.
THIS WOULD-BE VICTIM FIGHTS BACK, CATWOMAN -- AND I'M STRONGER AND FASTER THAN YOU ARE.
ARE YOU?
CAN YOU HATE THE WAY I CAN HATE?
SWAK
TWO DAYS I'VE HID HERE--
--WANTING YOU AND HATING YOU.
AFRAID TO MOVE-- BECAUSE OF YOU!
MY LIFE IN RUINS-- BECAUSE OF YOU!
KRAK
EVERYTHING LOST-- BECAUSE OF YOU!
AAAHHH!
21
CONTINUED ON PAGE 22

I WANT TO KILL YOU!
KWHAM
...
WHAT... WAITING FOR...?
LOOKS LIKE... GOT YOUR CHANCE...
MY CLAWS ARE STEEL-TIPPED... RAZOR-SHARP.
I COULD CUT YOUR THROAT.
IT WOULD BE SO EASY.
22


SNIK SNIK
SO EASY.
MY GOD.
NO.
BRUCE... I ALMOST KILLED YOU.
I WAS THAT CLOSE.
NOT SO CLOSE.
YOU'VE GOT A STRONG KNEE-- BUT I'VE GOT A STRONGER JAW.
YOU NEED A CATHARSIS.
LET'S JUST SAY I GAVE YOU ONE!
SO MUCH HATE.
WAS IT REAL?
AS REAL AS THE LOVE WE KNOW.
I FINALLY UNDERSTOOD THE ANGUISH YOU'VE BEEN FEELING--
--WHEN I SAW THAT YOU'D FORGOTTEN YOUR PANTHER, LOCKED AWAY ALONE FOR TWO DAYS.
IT MADE ME REALIZE THE TRUTH OF SOMETHING ROBIN SAID:
WE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR EACH OTHER. YOU HURT ME BY LEAVING GOTHAM... I HURT YOU BY STARTING UP WITH VICKI.
LIFE CAN TAKE PEOPLE IN OPPOSITE DIRECTIONS. IT'S NOT FAIR, IT'S THE WAY THINGS ARE.
NEITHER OF US INTENDED THE HURT WE GAVE.
BUT FOR THE HURT I GAVE YOU, SELINA, I'M SORRY...
SHE NODS, HOLDING HER TEARS, KNOWING AT LAST THAT THEY'VE REACHED THE END.
NEXT ISSUE: HUGO STRANGE
BATMAN #356 ON SALE OCTOBER 14.



Dear Editor,

Besides the usual superb *Batman* and *Catwoman* stories and the usual grand artistry, BATMAN #350 also brought us Tony DeZuniga. Talented Tony De is a welcome addition to this title's artistic crew. He and Gene Colan combined to render an excellent Batman.

But where Tony really shined was in his beautiful illustrations of the ravishing, alluring, sensuous Catwoman. Will he be a regular on the series? If Mr. DeZuniga does for *Catwoman* what he did for *Shanna, The She-Devil*, we fans will have much to look forward to in the months to come.

Batman, however, is also blessed with fine scripting. The saga of Batman and Robin versus the Vampire Clan continues to develop into a real humdinger. It will be exciting to finally see the Dynamic Duo pit their skills against the vampires in what is sure to be an awesome no-quarter-given battle. Gerry Conway and Paul Levitz have certainly held our interest during the multi-issue epic.

Likewise, Bruce Jones has literally captured the essence of the Catwoman as well as my enthusiasm. It will be interesting to see how the Queen of Cats handles her first solo confrontation with an established super-villain. Within the pages of her series is also the perfect place for DC to develop some much-needed super-villainesses. (Perhaps the sister of the Red Dart or a woman who has copied the Un-Thing's formula, or other women who have adopted the methods of now-dead or retired super-villains).

All in all, BATMAN #350 was a very classy act.

WALLACE LEE HOPKINS
Box 428
Glen Carbon, IL 62034

As you've probably already noticed, Wallace, the **Catwoman** *series has been put back on the shelf for the nonce, so we can bring you book-length Bat-sagas every month in these pages. But that by no means leaves Selina Kyle on the shelf as well. The Catwoman is back in this very issue in the conclusion of a story begun in last month's DETECTIVE COMICS, and she'll continue to pop up (dare we say it?) when you least expect her.*

Any good cat has nine lives at least, and always lands on its feet. And what more could anyone ask for?

* * * *

Dear Sir,

I am quite overwhelmed with "Blood Sport" in Batman 349. The story was well-written, with nice attention to detail and characterization—little touches that can lift a mediocre story into the good category or a good one to superior. This is definitely a superior story. A good example of this sort of touch is Dala's speech about her childhood in New Orleans: a human touch made chilling because of its source. Colan's artwork is his best in Batman so far, in my opinion; his vampires are truly frightening creatures, more like the Master in *'Salem's Lot* than the more human-appearing versions we are used to from the majority of films and books.

Although I had realized that Dala was going to turn out to be an undesirable of some sort, I still like the idea of Dick Grayson becoming involved with a more mature female—no, not Aunt Harriet!—than he usually does. I realize I'm beginning to sound like a broken record on this subject, but since the women Bruce Wayne's been out with have been such strong characters (Silver St. Cloud, Selina Kyle, etc.) I've begun to feel that it's high time his ward followed suit. However, Dick's crush on Batgirl a few years back only brought out the worst in him and is NOT something I would care to see repeated: Dala would not have tolerated such chauvinistic behavior, which is why I rather like her. I'll try to stop harping on this subject, but with the end of this plot-line coming up soon, I'm afraid the impulse will be to have him turn to another flighty type.

Finally, I *do* like the cross-over plots from DETECTIVE to BATMAN—it makes for less waiting for resolutions (and I'm not a patient person; since comic books are usually two to three weeks later in arriving in this area than in other places, I called a friend long-distance and asked her to pick up copies of BATMAN #350 and TEC #517 as soon as they come out there and mail 'em out to me ASAP!) but my main reason for approving this technique is that it leaves fewer loose ends in the Batman story—I like continuity—and gives the writers more of a chance to work up subplots. Do keep it up.

I've said it before but it bears repeating: you all are doing a wonderful job. I wait impatiently for every issue, read each over several times and start anticipating again. It makes life so much more interesting to have something to look forward to!

Sincerely,
L. Jeanne Powers
111 Heather Drive
Bristol, VA 24201

We also thought it was time for Dick to be involved with an "older" woman, Jeanne. But, even though his relationship with Dala seems to be doomed, Robin's future love life isn't. Be sure to check out upcoming issues of the NEW TEEN TITANS. Which one of the worldly women do you think she'll be? You've got three guesses.

* * * * *

Dear Editor,

While I've been enthralled by the Bat/Vampire series currently hop-scotching between BATMAN and DETECTIVE, my favorite *Batman* stories are those that accentuate his detective skills over his creature-of-the-night schtick.

Batman isn't a super-hero, per se. His world revolves around common-place criminals and an oddball assortment of non-powered, costumed cut-ups like the Joker and Two-Face.

If anything, BATMAN should be treated like an old pulp magazine. I'd like to see a return to one-issue stories, with only an occasional multi-parter a la David Reed's excellent offerings.

Gene Colan is a great artist, but he uses too few panels to tell the kind of stories that Batman demands. Why don't you utilize the talents of Carmine Infantino? He still has the touch.

JEFFREY LOWNDES
809 Sunset St.
Scranton, PA 18590

No one agrees more that Carmine still has that magic touch, Jeff, which is why we tapped him to fill in for regular artist Jim Aparo on this month's Batman/Flash team-up in the pages of THE BRAVE AND THE BOLD. Carmine's special affinity for both the Darknight Detective and the Scarlet Speedster made him the only choice to illustrate Mike W. Barr's offbeat script, "Trade Heroes—And Win!"

If you like super-villains on the order of the Rainbow Raider and Doctor Double-X, and edge-of-your-seat suspense, you'll hate yourself if you miss this issue.

As for your plea for one-part stories, we direct your attention to the following letter...

* * * *

Dear Editor,

Well, you're certainly taking this "same magazine twice-a-month" bit to heart with BATMAN and DETECTIVE, aren't you? Of course, there is some logic behind this move. For one, it could only happen (or, at least, only happen without great difficulty) if you have the same writer on both books, which is the unusual circumstance you find yourself in here. In fact, if you have the same writer for two mags starring the same character, it's almost inevitable that they'll come to be much the same as one another—so why not make it official? And it does solve the problem of avoiding inconsistencies between two ongoing story-lines—because there's only one story-line to worry about. And I guess there's also the hope that it will boost the sales of the lower-selling mag, DETECTIVE, in this case.

However, there are some potential problems with the system. I think they would occur mainly in relation to the non-specialty outlets, where comics are a sideline for the owner and where distribution is not as good as at the comics shops. This is still significant though, since—as I'm sure you're aware—the non-specialty outlets still account for a great deal of your market.

Firstly, there's the problem that many stores don't carry both BATMAN and DETECTIVE. Thus, readers that rely on such outlets will be left out in the cold. Secondly, among those stores that do carry both mags, the timing and sequence of distribution may frequently be disturbed so that a given month's DETECTIVE will appear on the stands before the same month's BATMAN, or that they will appear at the same time, in which case an un-initiated reader may pick up the "wrong" one first. Lastly, a reader on a limited budget who has bought only one of the two mags in the past maydecide to drop it rather than spend more money to pick up both.

And, in the small space that I have left, let me comment on the current vampire storyline: gripping, moody, intriguing, powerful, repulsive, suspenseful. This is a story tailor-made (or Conway-made) for Gene Colan's artistic talents.

T.M. MAPLE
Toronto, Ontario

Naturally, T.M., the points you raise have occurred to us here at the New DC as well. To take those points in order, as best we can: we hope that those readers who, unfortunately, are unable to find both BATMAN and DETECTIVE at their local newsstand will subscribe to the mags instead. Remember, all subscription copies are mailed FLAT these days, and given the same loving care your Mother would give them if your Mother liked comics. Second, we try our best in every issue to make mention of the fact that the previous BATMAN or DETECTIVE should be read first. We believe our readers are intelligent enough to notice when they are reading something out of sequence and that they'll take steps to read the stories in the right order. Lastly, it is our fervent hope that the quality and excitement generated by our cross-continuity between BATMAN and DETECTIVE will make it impossible for any reader to give up reading either book. We certainly think both mags are worth those sixty centavos, and trust you do too.

* * * *

Dear Dick and Company,

First off, let me congratulate you all for the 350th issue plateau. Second, let me reprimand you all for letting it pass by almost unnoticed. To be sure, "Nightmare In Crimson" was a good tale, but I have come to expect more every 50th issue than a story that might as well have been #345, and no one would have noticed.

I'd also like to compliment Tony DeZuniga for doing such a fine job filling in for Trevor Von Eeden on *Catwoman*. Isn't Selina popular enough to earn an appearance in THE BRAVE AND THE BOLD?

KEITH HUMPHREYS
Morgantown, WVA.

As a matter of fact, Keith, Selina Kyle is indeed slated for an upcoming issue of B&B, but not quite in the fashion you're thinking. Alan Brennert, whose "To Kill a Legend" in 'TEC #500 made him an instant fan-favorite, has scripted a tale called "The Autobiography of Bruce Wayne", a very special story which tells of the Earth-Two Batman and Catwoman, and how they finally fell in love. It should be coming your way in the March or April issue of B&B, and we know you'll enjoy it.

* * * *

Dear Editor,

Just a few lines to compliment you on the fine quality that BATMAN and DETECTIVE have taken on in recent months. BATMAN #349 and 350 were super efforts on the part of your creative staff. I know that producing a single comic every month is a monumental job, but Gerry Conway's scripts and Gene Colan's art are giving the title the much-needed "mystery" feel that I think is essential. I still miss Irv Novick sometimes, but I guess I'll just have to check out the "old-timer" over in DC PRESENTS.

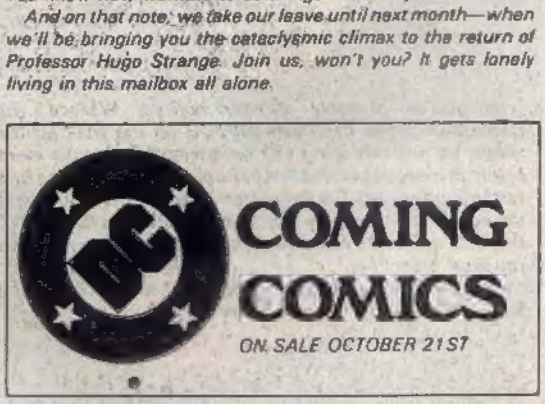
It is nice to see Bruce Wayne finally realize the *he* is the Batman, not vice versa. The best thing you could do is make the Bruce Wayne persona as completely different from Batman as you can, and the steps you're taking towards turning him into the sort of useless playboy that was part of the original Batman conception is a definite step in the right direction.

GORDON MANLEY
P.O. Box 3041
Portsmouth, VA 23701

Frankly, Gordon, there is still a little controversy around the DC offices as to whether turning Bruce Wayne from millionaire-philanthropist to millionaire-playboy was the right move. Outgoing editor Dick Giordano made the decision to change Bruce back to his old image and incoming editor Len Wein intends to stay with the concept—at least until he hears what comicdom assembled has to say about it.

Well, how do you feel out there? Will it be Bruce the Businessman or Bruce the Fop? Please write and let us know. You know how we hate to do things without you.

And on that note, we take our leave until next month—when we'll be bringing you the cataclysmic climax to the return of Professor Hugo Strange. Join us, won't you? It gets lonely living in this mailbox all alone.



GREEN LANTERN #160—It's a "Head Trip" for GL as he's hijacked by the Head Men. It's all part of their demonstration to the Citadel that they're powerful enough to join. The Omega Men pop up briefly. Mike W. Barr is the writer and Keith Pollard the penciller. Mike De Carlo inks. TALES OF THE GREEN LANTERN CORPS is by Bob Rozakis, the very promising Jerome Moore and Rodin Rodriguez.

HOUSE OF MYSTERY #312—Dan Mishkin and Gary Cohn and Tom Sutton's I, VAMPIRE. Also: "Just Like Clockwork" by Joey Cavalieri and Ric Estrada and "Game of Fear" by George Kashdan and Jess Jodolman. Cover by Mike Kaluta.

SGT. ROCK #372—"The Last Page," by Kanigher and Jack Arata. Also, Arata does "Time Drop." "Stalemate" is from Kanigher and Kim De Mulder and BATTLE ALBUM is by Bob Hardin.